

Australia and the European Union. If we don't pass these agreements, we will continue to fall behind while other countries gain. Same with Colombia: in 2007, our farmers accounted for 44 percent of the agricultural business in Colombia. By 2010, that number fell to 21 percent.

These agreements are about the future. As Americans, we've enjoyed an unprecedented quality of life because we make things other people can't and we make common goods better than anyone else. That's still the case. In my district, we make the world's most advanced wafers in the semi-conductor industry and some of the most advanced medical devices.

We are poised to continue our tradition of excellence in this country if we make the right choices. And, today, making the right choices means working in a bipartisan way with the Obama administration and enacting a key provision of the President's jobs plan. It means passing these fair trade agreements before the House this week.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills and help get America back to work.

#### RECOGNIZING LAS VEGAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give special recognition to the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 100th anniversary on October 21 and marks a century of success in working to help build and sustain southern Nevada's business community.

I'm a proud member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. And as someone who grew up in southern Nevada and who represents her hometown of Las Vegas here in Congress, it has been remarkable to see firsthand so many of the outstanding achievements of the chamber and its thousands of members and how they—we—have shaped our community throughout the years.

From designing some of the very first tourism campaigns for Las Vegas, to helping pass major small business legislation in recent years, the chamber has always played a key part in facilitating the growth of Las Vegas and in supporting the business community in southern Nevada—today's economic engine of the great Silver State.

I have had the pleasure to know and work with many of the chamber's leaders and participants from its member businesses who serve the families of my community every day and who serve the nearly 40 million visitors drawn to Las Vegas each year. The Las Vegas Chamber's centennial marks a milestone for an organization that had its humble beginnings a century ago in a dusty railroad town—now known around the globe as the "entertainment capital of the world."

Many of the chamber's early leaders were instrumental in getting legislation passed to create the first highways being built to and from Las Vegas, making the city more accessible to northern Nevada, southern California, Arizona and Utah. Chamber leaders advocated for the building of Hoover Dam. This modern marvel still operates today, creating electricity for millions of homes and businesses, drawing millions of tourists for recreational opportunities at Lake Mead, and creating thousands of jobs for the region.

Chamber leaders were early supporters of the aviation industry in Las Vegas, bringing the first airfield to Las Vegas in the 1920s, establishing McCarran Airport's current location. Later, the chamber worked to secure financing for a modern airport built in 1960. These early leaders recognized the need for air travel to keep Las Vegas accessible, competitive, and relevant; and their support led to McCarran Airport growing to become one of the busiest airports in our Nation.

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in creating the modern method of promoting Las Vegas through the initiation of the Live Wire Fund. Created in 1944, the Live Wire Fund eventually led to creative marketing campaigns and the initiation of the Las Vegas News Bureau to promote Las Vegas tourism and hospitality to the Nation and to the world. What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas.

The chamber has always been and remains the voice of business in southern Nevada. With over 80 percent of the jobs in the United States created by small businesses, it is my commitment to continue to honor the business people of Nevada by working towards a fairer business environment where "Made in America"—and especially "Made and Sold in Nevada"—drive the philosophy of our business mindset.

□ 1030

This will create jobs, put people back to work, and continue to provide the kind of opportunities on which our Nation was founded. The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has embodied these business ideals for a century, and I look forward to being a part of the great things they do in their 101st year and beyond.

In recognition of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce's success, and they are here today in number on Capitol Hill, in helping to make Las Vegas a brand recognized around the world, and for their unwavering commitment to local businesses, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce for their 100 years of service and in wishing this organization and its members another century of extraordinary success.

#### FREE UP AMERICA'S RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. The President's jobs bill has a surprising number in it for rebuilding our infrastructure. Most Americans would be surprised that that number is only \$27 billion. Divide that between States, and you barely have enough to put some tar and chips on the roads. And yet, as the President is out touting this jobs bill and talking about our crumbling infrastructure, it just isn't going to do the job.

How about this number? \$129 billion to build roads and buildings and water projects? Unfortunately, that number is not being spent in the United States; rather, that \$129 billion is the number that Americans pay in foreign aid to OPEC countries to build their roads, their palaces, their buildings.

Now, unfortunately, that money goes to more than just their infrastructure. It also goes to countries like Iran that fund their nuclear weapons programs threatening Israel and the neighboring countries. It goes to Iran to fund their assassination attempts against Saudi Ambassadors. Iran used it to fund terrorist weapons and IEDs to kill our soldiers. We pay for both sides in the war on terror, and much of that comes through buying foreign energy.

In the meantime, our roads are crumbling, our bridges are rusting and corroding, our locks and dams are decaying, our water and sewer pipe lines are collapsing.

And listen to the cost. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the numbers are staggering: \$935 billion are needed to fix our roads and bridges; \$87 billion for aviation; \$12.5 billion for our locks and dams; \$255 billion to fix our drinking water; \$75 billion for energy infrastructure; \$50 billion for inland waterways; \$50 billion for levees; \$265 billion for transit. Where is the money going to come from?

What is being proposed are long-term and permanent taxes, about 30 years worth of more debt and borrowed money from China for a small \$27 billion to do this. It's not going to do the job, and raising taxes and creating warfare between classes is not going to do it.

Here's what can do it. We have, off of our coast, about 85 to 115 billion barrels of oil, trillion cubic feet of natural gas, trillions. We have massive amounts of money off our coast. Unfortunately, the administration says no, we can't use our money. We have to continue to borrow from China, increase debt or raise taxes. Those approaches to rebuilding America will not do.

What we need to do is free up American resources, use our resources, use our funding to rebuild America. And think what comes out of this. From the royalties, the leases, and from the income taxes that come from hiring, yes, millions of people to involve with civil engineers and operating engineers, laborers, architects, steamfitters, welders, people who work on the rigs, you

create \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion worth of revenue over the next 20 years.

What we need to be doing is making a commitment to invest that money in American infrastructure, American resources, American funds for American infrastructure.

Think of what this also does for our manufacturing. When you create that kind of demand for steel and concrete and that kind of demand for equipment to be purchased over a long time, this is a real jobs plan. We don't need to be going back hat in hand to other countries and saying, please let us borrow more from you. We don't need to be having class warfare. We don't need to be saying, let's just attack people who make a certain amount of money. We don't need to be saying, let's take all the revenue that comes from taxing these corporate jets for 10 years and use it to fund the government for a lousy hour and 45 minutes. Those may be great talking points, but they are not a jobs plan.

America wants to work and America wants us to use our resources. America wants to stop funding both sides in the war on terror. We can do this. And it doesn't take some sort of super plan to do this. It just says, America has all the resources.

I call upon my colleagues to continue to push for ways that we can free up American resources, stop saying no to American jobs, stop simply using political rhetoric to block these things, but really create this mechanism by which we can pay for rebuilding America.

We can do it. We have the resources to do it. We have to have the way and we have to have the will.

#### INITIATIVES OF THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Recently I had the honor of being reappointed to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, a committee on which I served during my first two terms in Congress. Consequently, caucus rules require me to, in turn, step down from the Small Business Committee, where I've proudly served for the past 5 years.

As I leave the Small Business Committee, I wanted to take a moment to discuss a few of the important initiatives on which the committee has played a meaningful role during that time. Some of the most important initiatives have been to support the brave men and women who have served our Nation in uniform. The Small Business Committee, over the past 5 years, has led the way in helping small business owners deal with the loss of key employees during long-term overseas deployments, and has helped incentivize the hiring of our military veterans.

Committee successes include the enactment of my legislation to increase business opportunities for veterans and

reservists, and support business owners who employ them. This bill was signed into law by President Bush in 2008 and has since helped countless veterans and employers.

We also successfully enacted laws to help returning veterans access job training programs and learn entrepreneurial skills to help them transition back into the workforce.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I was able to convene hearings that gave voice to all sides on pending issues in Congress, including bringing more than a dozen people from western Pennsylvania before the committee to make sure that their voice was heard and their point of view understood during the critical early stages of the legislative process.

Our subcommittee held hearings that brought to light the unintended consequences of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's lead regulations on small businesses and home-based toy manufacturers. We also held hearings that raised concerns about the effect that various health care reform proposals might have on small employers, and the devastating impact that skyrocketing gas prices can have on businesses and consumers.

When CMS proposed a flawed Medicare competitive bidding program that would harm medical equipment suppliers and negatively impact patient access and quality of care, our subcommittee heard the concerns of small businesses across the country. And when necessary, our subcommittee also convened field hearings to discuss important issues, such as a hearing we held in western Pennsylvania to discuss ideas on how to increase access to capital for small businesses.

When flooding impacted businesses in western Pennsylvania, we brought the SBA to Aliquippa to personally inspect the damage and improve the SBA's response. And as gas prices continued to climb and the Nation looked for solutions to our energy crisis, I joined our former colleague, Mary Fallon, now Oklahoma's Governor, to cochair a field hearing in Tulsa to hear directly from the oil industries their explanation of why gas prices were so unacceptably high and what we can do to help bring them down.

Our subcommittee also led the way in twice passing through the House my bill to expand access to private capital investment through the SBIR program. And we held the first hearing in either Chamber of Congress on the controversial credit card interchange fee, an issue that since has grown into a top priority for businesses, consumers, and banks.

We worked in a bipartisan way to successfully advocate for repeal of the onerous 1099 reporting requirements included in the health care reform law. All in all, quite a record of bipartisan success.

As I leave the committee, I want to thank Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for

her help and support during my time on the committee, and I look forward to continuing to work on small business issues through my new committee assignments in the months ahead.

□ 1040

#### RECOGNIZING MATT PORTER, 2011 RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME SOCIETY'S DAN PIPER AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Matt Porter of State College, Pennsylvania, the 2011 recipient of the National Down Syndrome Society's Dan Piper Award.

Dan Piper was a young man born with Down syndrome who spent much of his life advocating on behalf of himself and others with Down syndrome. He, sadly, passed away on September 1, 2002. In order to celebrate Dan's life, the Dan Piper Award was created to recognize and celebrate an individual with Down syndrome that has made similar contributions to Down syndrome awareness and advocacy.

Today, I'm pleased and proud to recognize one of my constituents, Matt Porter, as the 2011 recipient of this great honor. I have met Matt Porter on several occasions. Most recently, I joined him and others at the Centre County Down Syndrome Society's annual Buddy Walk. My introduction to Matt, however, was sometime before that when he visited my Washington office in mid-February with his brother, Andy. Matt was visiting congressional offices to raise awareness for the Down Syndrome Society and to advocate on issues most pressing to those who are living with Down syndrome.

Matt's personality and attitude towards life embody the spirit of the Dan Piper Award. Much like Dan, Matt's accomplishments have opened so many doors to those with Down syndrome. I find Matt to be an inspiring individual, and I commend him on the hard work with his employment, participating in the Special Olympics, volunteering in the community, and advocating on behalf of others with Down syndrome.

We all stand to learn a lot from this young man's example and character. Congratulations, Matt Porter.

#### HAVE 10 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN MADE AMERICA SAFER?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I feel like I have a case of déjà vu. Two years ago, I stood on this floor, on the eighth anniversary of our invasion of Afghanistan, and asked: Have our 8 years, 791 American deaths, and billions of U.S. dollars spent in Afghanistan made America safer?